

**What we claim is**

1. The use of a dark-field inspection unit for the automatic inspection of a tinted contact lens.
2. The use of claim 1 wherein the dark-field inspection unit is based on the schlieren method.
3. The use of claims 1 and 2 wherein the dark-field inspection unit is combined with a bright-field inspection unit.
4. The use of any of the preceding claims wherein the contact lens is an opaque tinted lens.